

Parishes Report Extensive Advent Activities

Two parishes in the diocese reported extensive activities for Advent last week. The two are St. Rita in West Webster, and St. Catherine of Siena in Ithaca.

In Ithaca, Joline DiGiacomo, reported that many parishioners participated in a special Family Enrichment Program recently. "The theme of the program was Advent-Peace," she said, "and included a dish-to-share dinner, individual family activities, slides, discussions and prayers."

Deacon Claude Lester, director of the diocesan Office of Parish Services presented the program.

Also, during the season, the parish liturgy committee has prepared special bulletin inserts to encourage family

participation in the deeper meaning of Christmas, she reported.

"To help reach out to those in need in the community," she said, "a 'Giving Tree,' which is a small live tree, is placed on the altar the first Sunday in Advent. The tree is filled with special gift tags, and parishioners are invited to take a tag, purchase the item on the tag, wrap the gift, replace the tag and return the gift to the tree by Dec. 16. This year, the gifts are for area Cambodian refugees and inmates at the Elmira Correctional Facility."

She noted that parishioners will be invited to decorate the church on the Sunday before Christmas. Young children will make Christmas and

Jesse Tree ornaments, while adults and teens will put up the trees, string lights and prepare the church. The event will conclude with refreshments.

The season will culminate with the Christmas Masses. A Christmas Eve Family Mass is slated for 5 p.m., but the celebration will actually begin at 4:30 p.m. with the Children's Choir under the direction of Patsy Moy Terry, with Pauline Hixon at the organ.

At the Mass, Michael Billington will lead the Folk Group in leading the singing.

"A special guest this year will be Ray Repp, who is a world renowned writer of folk songs and liturgist," Ms. DiGiacomo said. "He was one of the first musicians to popularize folk music in a liturgical setting, and is a resident of Trumansburg."

Fathers Michael Hogan, pastor, and William Kelly, will concelebrate.

The midnight Mass will feature music by the choir under the direction of Mary Cooke and Debbie Stevenson at the organ.

Other Christmas Masses are slated for 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Christmas Day.

In West Webster, Denise Mack reported a similar round of activities:

A workshop, entitled "Advent for Families," will be held 9:30-11:30 a.m., Dec. 8. Mrs. Mack will lead the program designed "to allevi-

ate the harried, harrassed and unrealistic expectations of a secular Christmas, and to have family fun for every family member," she said. Reservations are made by calling Donna Kreuzer, 671-0890.

A series on the sacraments will be held 7:30 p.m., Dec.

5, 12, and 19 in the church. Sister Nancy DeRycke SSJ, Father Edward Palumbos, and Deacon Thomas Driscoll will present the programs.

On most Sundays of Advent, a special Children's Liturgy of the Word, coordinated by Marie White, will be celebrated at 9 a.m.

Two activities, an Ecumenical Advent Service and an Ecumenical Party, will begin 7:30 p.m., Dec. 16. The service will be held in the church, the party in the barn. The party is sponsored by the parish's new Youth Ministry Team, coordinated by Colleen DeKing.



Gifts to Parishes

William Zurowski, left, charitable and benevolent chairman for Pope John XXIII Council 7707, Knights of Columbus, presents checks totaling \$700 to Fathers John Philipps, pastor, Nativity Church, Brockport; Richard Brickler, pastor, St. Boniface; Frank DiSano, associate pastor, St. Pius X, Chili; Thomas Celso, associate pastor, St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport, and Milton Danko, a parishioner at Newman Oratory, Brockport. A check also was presented to Robert Carson, parish council president, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Hamlin. Other checks were distributed to St. Leo, Hilton; St. Vincent, Churchville, and St. Christopher, North Chili. The presentations took place at the first annual Clergy Appreciation Night Dinner at St. John's PAC Room, Spencerport. John Grieco, council Catholic activities chairman, also thanked the clergy.

Child Care Center Names New Director

Nancy Griswold, co-founder and former teacher of Corpus Christi Child Care, has been named the center's director.

Ms. Griswold has an Associate of Arts degree in early childhood from St. Catherine's in Kentucky and taught day care for seven years before her four years at Corpus Christi. She also was an administrative assistant at Asbury Day Care Center.

According to a release from the center, a new after-school program has been added for children in kindergarten through fourth grade each weekday after-

noon, including school holidays but not legal holidays.

Another addition has been an aide, funded through the Urban League, who comes in three times weekly. The children also visit a local nursing home once monthly in the "Adopt a Grandparent" program.

The center utilizes many volunteers to answer phones, do paperwork, run errands and transport the children on field trips.

Anyone interested in learning more about the center should contact Ms. Griswold at 546-8787.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Extended Metaphors

Dear Father Hohman, Your column (11/12/81) entitled, "Can Jesus Hurt?" and your conclusion that His hurting today is a "way of speaking" seems to raise for me more questions than it puts to rest.

For example: If Jesus dwells within us, and we are hurting, is it not intolerable to think of Him present, but cool and unaffectedly impassive to our hurt?

Response: Obviously the physical Jesus is not dwelling within us (except insofar as He is physically present under the Eucharistic species). But the seat of emotions is in the physical body and nervous system. The reality of Jesus' love and compassion does not require physical emotion, but we describe it from the point of view of our personal experience.

Continuing the letter: Jesus' suffering historically occurred in one moment, a few years of time. But does not this event, somehow, have to be lived out so as to permeate the whole of the Mystical Body of Christ in all the successive moments of time and space in which it exists? Can we really say that Jesus does not suffer in the suffering people of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Ethiopia as well as those in the streets, shelters and hospitals of Rochester?

It appears to me that He will continue to hurt as long as those whom He loves hurt, or until all of His body, the church, has become one with Him in His glorified condition.

Response: In this section of your letter you have come to the heart of the matter. While the very expression "glorified condition" indicates ultimate freedom from sorrow and pain, the Mystical Body does experience it until the Second Coming, when it too will be glorified. That is why we call it mystical — because it is really the Body of Christ, yet separate from His physical body. How this can be is beyond our mortal understanding.

But St. Paul did refer to our making up what was lacking in the sufferings of Christ. Therefore the present location of His pain and suffering is in His people, His body, joined to Him who is the Head.

Perhaps I should not have brought up this difficult philosophical and theological problem. If it were to be a problem vis-a-vis one's personal relationship to Jesus and His love, that would be a shame. It is OK to think in terms of Jesus hurting for our hurts, especially if it makes us appreciate the love of Jesus more deeply. The Bible is full of "anthropomorphisms," that is speaking of God in human terms. If it's good enough for the Bible, I don't know why you can't think that way.

Hospital School Gives Pastor Rare 'Degree'

Elmira — Father Eugene McFarland, pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Macedon, was named an "honorary alumnus" of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing by the alumni association recently.

The alumni, along with the sisters in residence, paid tribute to "Padre," as he is affectionately known to St. Joseph's students and graduates.

Connie Bergh, president of the association, presented the priest with a gift.

Father McFarland's association with St. Joseph nurses began when he was a patient at the hospital for an extended period in 1943.

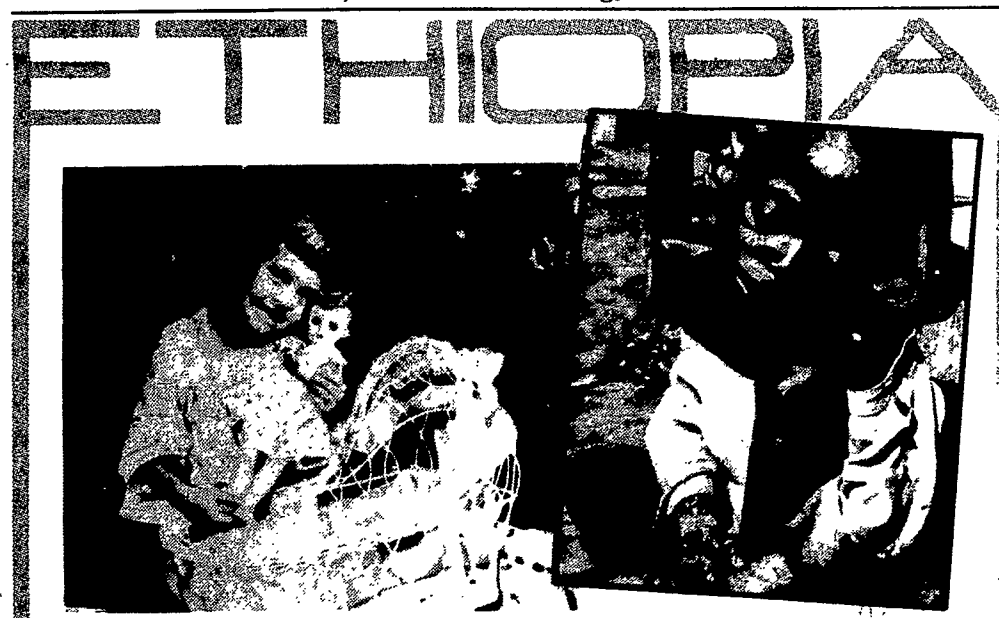
Since that time he has maintained close contacts with the school and its people.

He is the first male to receive the honorary alumnus award.

Family Advent

Webster — "Wishing and Waiting," a family Advent program will be presented by the Webster Council of Churches, 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 16 at St. Rita's Church. Music will be provided by the Melo-wives under the direction of Betty Folger. Area clergy will take part in the ecumenical program. Individuals and families are welcome.

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Visions of Sugarplums?

Christmas is almost here. Already children dream of Santa Claus, sugarplums, dolls, games and other goodies. But the Christmas dreams of children in Ethiopia are far different.

They dream of a scrap of bread, a drop of water to keep them alive 'til Christmas. As you saw on TV thousands of them have already died from starvation. Many more thousands will die before Christmas. UNLESS — compassionate people like you come to their aid NOW!

If you give as little as 10% of what you spend for your Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, you will save the lives of children who are starving in Ethiopia. Please send something right now.

"The human suffering which millions are enduring in Ethiopia almost surpasses our ability to imagine... Starving babies in their mother's arms beg a response." (Archbishop John J. O'Connor, President, CNEWA).

TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE!

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